Rome 10 oct. 1868

My dear Tom

In yours of the 2d Inst there seems a mistake, you write "Cario" whereas I think it should be Cairo for perhaps I am ignorant of Geography a little but I do not know of "Cario" & certainly there is no Consul at such a place if the place exists, so I conclude 'tis a slip of the pen & at once to the Consul, Cairo, I write without loss of time today - But meanwhile correct me if I am in error & I write as you direct -

I regret that the post to Egypt is very uncertain & on recent occasions to the Consul in Alexandria I have had to send my letters to London to the F. O. - but as it will be so pleasant for the Andersons when they arrive to find a ready P. in the Consul's so I write at a venture, for you must know that we Consuls are a Brotherhood all over the world

Your letter delights me you send me so much charming news of your children

of their well being & doing well

In comparing our brotherly bodies I think I have the worst of the rheumatism for my hands have been so affected with swelling & stiffness even now my 3d & 4th fingers left hand are crooked – but now I can play a little on my piano & paint even, but always with some pain – yet my progress is great as I now can walk & go out alone but I cannot put on my stockings – my health is excellent & my looks make every one exclaim that with all my late suffering I get younger & younger – my English Doctor says that I shall soon be 40

No doubt my temperaments is like my dear angel mother & whatever I may be doomed to suffer I still find a way of bearing it how delighted I shall be to receive your dear Card & hope she will make some stay & let me have the enjoyment of one visitation at last

For the last two years I have been engaged in a serious work. conveying the fairies

Roman Water (acqua Marcia) to Rome some
38 miles - I have 50 Shares in this noble
work & have pinched myself in every way & at
all times to do the thing - The whole sum is a
thousand pounds of which I have now paid
up £750 & get 5 per cent but next Autumn
when the water is here in Rome I expect to
get 10 per cent that is £100 a year - I am making
all this sacrifice for poor dear Eleanor my youngest
who may not marry & so with the provision of
her excellent Nurse she will be comfortable
when I am no more

You'll be glad to hear that I have been so lucky
as to pick up a very valuable picture for a song
I was wanting to bring my hand again to my
painting & finding my original work too painful
I bethought myself to get an old dirty picture
to clean & touch up which I had seen for £2.10
It has turned up the splendid work of Andrea
Sacchi, every one is astonished at it - the subject
is the Queen Esther before the King - life size half
length figures, I may easily sell it at good price
at least £200 - the group of the Queen fainting is noble
in expression & colour - I worked a fortnight at
it, that has done me good, indeed now I am quite